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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 22, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Update on the Creation of the Office of Great Start

The consolidation of early childhood education and care programs and resources into a single office is one of the State Board of Education's (SBE) and Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) reform priorities for 2011-12, as well as one of the education reforms recommended to Governor Rick Snyder.

On June 29, 2011, Governor Snyder signed Executive Order (EO) 2011-8, creating the Office of Great Start (OGS) in the MDE. The purpose of the OGS is to create a coherent system of health and early learning that aligns, integrates, and coordinates Michigan's investments from prenatal to third grade. It is also charged with improving the effectiveness and efficiencies of the various programs and services that are currently fragmented across state government.

The EO transferred to the OGS the MDE's Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services and the Michigan Department of Human Services' Offices of Child Development and Care and Head Start Collaboration. The new OGS will be led by a Deputy Superintendent who will report directly to State Superintendent Mike Flanagan.

MDE staff will provide the SBE with an update on the status of the OGS.

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